

JAN 11 2000

EIS002151

JULIA MOON-SPARROW

MS. MOON-SPARROW: Let me know if I'm not speaking loudly enough. My name is Julia Moon-Sparrow and I'm one of the founding members of Shundahai Network founded at the request of spiritual leader Corbin Harney, Western Shoshone Nation.

This one? Can you hear me better now?

1 All right. There we go. So anyways, what I want to say tonight is that I know that our lives and all of the lives of our future generations depend on uncontaminated land and water and that the lives on the land, all of the lives on the land need to be able to live for our lives to be able to continue. This is something that I know. This is something that we've been taught and it's unexcusable for the DOE to knowingly contaminate the land and the water and all of the present and future communities that will be affected by the water and soil contamination that will lead from Yucca Mountain. I feel that this is unexcusable and unacceptable and that everything in our power has to be done to stop this from happening.

2 The DEIS Health Impact Assessment is incomplete, assuming that the only health impact is one of latent cancer fatality. Cancer fatality is only one of radiation health impacts. I've heard stories from a lot of different native women and men in different areas where the uranium mining has gone on and places where they've been contaminated.

Stories of women that had a lot of health issues with their reproduction and couldn't bear children or that were suffering throughout their lives because of their reproductive organs not being able to stop bleeding or things like that or having a lot of stillbirths or mutations, stories that a lot of us don't ever hear about, and this is wrong and this is what will happen from Yucca Mountain being contaminated because it will go through the water and through the soil and there's nothing that anyone can do to stop that from traveling unless we stop it from happening in the first place. Once it's there, it will travel. So anyway, some of the other effects are premature aging, reproductive illnesses, stillbirths, excess tumors, genetic and teratogenic effects. The DEIS omits these serious health issues as well as the possible impacts on future generations.

3 It also violates the Nuclear Waste Policy of 1982. This act outlines geological disposal as waste isolation. The DEIS describes a facility design based on delayed release of radioactivity by means of engineered barriers. Admitting the truth that the site will leak. How much radiation will leak and when is not clear. Probably a lot over time. The amount that they're going to put in there will reach the outside world. What is clear, however, is the impossibility of waste isolation in Yucca Mountain.

4 The DEIS also violates the treaty of Ruby Valley. It fails to address the Western Shoshone Nation's protest of the use of their land as outlined in the 1863 treaty of Ruby Valley with the United States. Their aboriginal lands for the dumping of nuclear waste is outside of the scope of the treaty. I believe it's outside the scope of sanity.

5 Scientific evidence confirms what the Shoshone Nation have taught all along, Yucca Mountain is moving. It's extremely unstable with thirty-three fault lines, a nearby active volcano, geothermal activity and fissures throughout the mountain. I've heard from scientists and watched the water from the rain go right through the mountain and this water will definitely reach where the nuclear waste is stored, and that's something that those openings at the downpours can travel through, it shows how unstable that mountain is. It's not a safe place for nuclear waste. It's not a sane place for nuclear waste. It's a political place for nuclear waste.

- 6 [The most serious environmental disaster in the project is the soil and groundwater from nuclear testing. That deadly soil and water is moving off the Nevada Test Site. It doesn't stay contained on the test site. That's something that the workers have even talked about, the scientists have talked about, Corbin Harney has talked about, the Western Shoshone National Council has talked about, so it's important that we listen to that. The US Government has already proven they will contaminate the land over a thousand times. We believe that test site has had over a thousand bombs. It's not even under a thousand.
- 7 [Now they are lying to the people again. Yucca Mountain is a greedy political decision, not a decision founded on safety issues. This DEIS is a cover-up of the truth. It is misinformation to allow the politicians and the nuclear industry and the out of sight out of mind tragic disaster of an excuse to create more
- 8 nuclear waste and profits. Monitor retrievable storage in the safest place nearby its point of origin and shutting down the reactors is the only sane solution. It's all of our responsibility to protect our future generations from the tragedy that will ensue from nuclear waste dumped in Yucca Mountain.]
- 9 [Why, also, has the DOE refrained from holding hearings on reservations? Why have the native people's voices not been allowed to be heard? All along the transportation routes as well as within Nevada, public
- 10 hearings need to be held on reservations. Yucca Mountain is on Western Shoshone lands. Return it to its rightful caretakers.] That's all I have to say.